



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Naran S. Ivanchukov, age 67, of McLean, Virginia, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit immigration fraud and to make false statements and conspiring to defraud the United States in the collection of income taxes. Ivanchukov was the owner of Global Recruitment and Immigration Services, Inc., a company in Falls Church, Virginia, that assisted aliens in obtaining "green cards" through an employment-based visa program. The program permits an employer to sponsor an alien for an employment position in the United States if the employer has been unable to find a qualified U.S. worker to fill the position. Ivanchukov and his co-conspirators charged the aliens as much as \$120,000 to pursue their visa applications. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment when sentenced on December 2, 2005.

In addition to Ivanchukov, Michelle I. Pappadakis, age 31, of Sterling, Virginia, Global's vice president and Bemba Balsirow, age 48, of Howell, New Jersey, also pled guilty yesterday to related charges. They face maximum sentences of five years imprisonment when sentenced on December 2, 2005. Rex B. Wingerter, age 52, of Hyattsville, Maryland, Global's general counsel, pled guilty on August 26, 2005, to misprison of felony and will be sentenced on November 18, 2005. He faces a maximum sentence of three years imprisonment. To date, nine defendants have been convicted of charges stemming from this scheme.

Ivanchukov admitted that he and his co-conspirators submitted fraudulent immigration documents containing forged signatures, false claims concerning the recruitment of U.S. workers, or misrepresentations concerning the job that was supposedly available. Others who have pleaded guilty in related cases have admitted that Ivanchukov paid them to act as sponsoring employers of aliens, although they had no intention of hiring the aliens as claimed and made no legitimate effort to recruit US workers. Government records show that Global filed at least 1,400 fraudulent applications as part of the scheme. Global conducted much of its business in cash, and Ivanchukov admitted that Global structured its cash deposits at its bank in amounts less than \$10,000 to avoid triggering a currency transaction report by the bank. Ivanchukov and Global also failed to file a federal income tax return and failed to report any income during the four-year conspiracy, although Global had revenues of \$3.2 million.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This was a major fraud on the United States and one of the largest labor certification cases ever prosecuted. The convictions announced today are the latest in our efforts to restore integrity to the employment-based visa process in particular, and the Nation's immigration system in general. We will continue to investigate and prosecute significant frauds

such as this one to ensure that the rights of U.S. workers and law-abiding immigrants are protected.”

The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, United States Department of Labor said, “Those who exploit the foreign labor certification process for personal gain compromise the integrity of this program by victimizing those who seek to work in this country legally, and providing those with questionable intent the opportunity to enter this country legitimately. These guilty pleas bring an end to a complex scheme of greed and fraud by individuals lacking concern for the consequences of their actions. My office is committed to continuing our collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies to combat fraud against the United States.”

The case was investigated by a team led by Special Agents from the Department of Labor’s Office of Inspector General; the Department of State’s Office of Inspector General; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations; the Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security; and the Fairfax County Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys James P. Gillis, John T. Morton, and Michael E. Rich prosecuted the case for the government.

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